

A New Genus of European Cleridae¹

(Coleoptera)

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In the most recent catalogue of the Cleridae (Corporaal, 1950), two Old World and 14 New World species of *Orthopleura* Spinola are recognized. After studying the type-specimens of nearly all these listed species, I have concluded that a number of taxonomic changes are necessary for the group. Most of these changes will be effected in a revisional study (Barr, in press). One change is presented here: the generic separation of the Old World species from those of the New World. Since a generic name that can be used to accommodate the Old World species is not available in the literature, a new name is proposed.

Aporthopleura, new genus

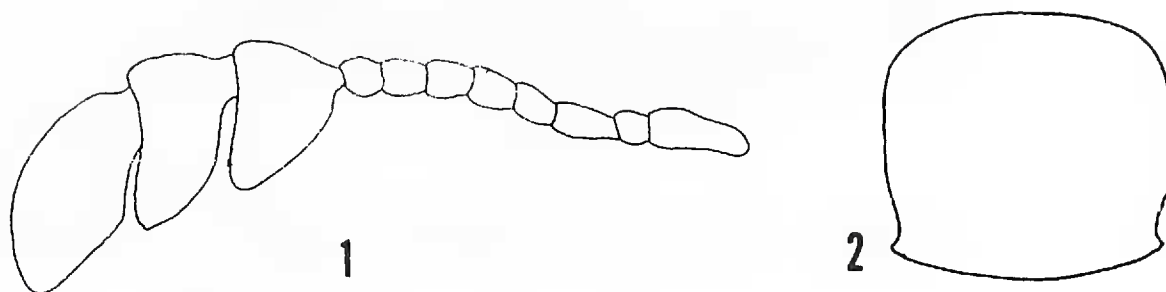
Enopliini, *Head*, excluding mouthparts, transverse; distance between eyes approximately twice the diameter of an eye across front; eyes moderate in size, finely faceted, shallowly emarginate behind antennal insertion; antenna (Fig. 1) 11-segmented, segment 1 enlarged apically, twice as long as subglobular segment 2, segments 3—8 subcylindrical, segment 3 longest, succeeding segments gradually becoming shorter, segments 9—10 abruptly enlarged, subequal, subcylindrical in cross section, triangularly transverse, segment 11 slightly shorter than combined length of segments 9 and 10, outer margin arcuate, inner margin feebly expanded or broadly angulate near middle; maxillary and labial palpus with last segment cylindrical. *Pronotum* (Fig. 2) subquadrate, approximately four-fifths as long as broad, evenly convex; lateral margins entire, continuous with anterior and posterior margins, feebly arcuately sinuate in dorsal view, slightly expanded anteriorly in side view; hind angles bluntly toothed. *Elytra* elongate, subcylindrical, parallel-sided, attaining penultimate abdominal segment; basal half with a few, coarse, more or less serially arranged punctures, that abruptly terminate at middle; epipleuron narrow, evident on basal half. *Anterior coxal cavities* open behind. *Abdomen* with six visible sternites. *Legs* short; protibia not serrate along front margin or apically toothed; tarsal segments 1—3 moderately expanded apically, each with an apical ventral plantula; pretarsal claws with a broad, blunt basal tooth.

Type of genus: *Dermestes sanguinicollis* Fab.

Aporthopleura is separated from *Orthopleura* by having a more compact and much less flattened antennal club, the pronotum bluntly toothed at the hind angles and less strongly expanded on its lateral margins, and the elytra very sparsely and coarsely punctured on the basal half.

Aporthopleura shows affinities with the Old World genus *Enoplium* Latreille (typified by its type-species *E. serraticornis* (Fab.)), especially with regard to thoracic structure, open front coxal cavities, and perhaps elytral punctation. However, *Aporthopleura* differs from *Enoplium* by the nature of the antennal club, the toothed pretarsal claws, and the nonexpanded terminal segment of the palpi.

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Figs. 1—2. *Aporthopleura sanguinicollis* (Fab.). Fig. 1. Antenna. Fig. 2. Dorsal view of pronotum.

This genus is established to receive the old, well-known European species *O. sanguinicollis* (Fab.) and *O. funebris* Fairmaire which was described from Syria. The type-specimen of this latter species has not been located nor have any determined specimens been examined. Under the circumstances, its placement in *Aporthopleura* must be considered tentative.

Literature Cited

- Barr, W. F. In press. Taxonomy of the new clerid genus *Neorthopleura* (Coleoptera). Melanderia.
 Corporaal, J. B. 1950. Coleopterorum Catalogus, pars 23 (editio secunda) Cleridae. W. Junk, 's-Gravenhage, 373 pp.

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

***Dermestes medialis* Casey a synonym of *Dermestes tristis* Fall.** — *Dermestes tristis* Fall, 1897 (Canad. Entom., 29:237,244), is recognized by the color of its dorsal pubescence, which is entirely black except for the presence of 3 spots of white pubescence on the disc of the pronotum. Occasionally there may also be a few other scattered white hairs on the pronotum. Specimens answering this description are known from Southern California north to British Columbia and west into Nevada, Idaho, Alberta, and Northern Colorado. *Dermestes medialis* Casey, 1900 (Jour. N.Y. Entom. Soc., 8:141), was established for a specimen with totally black pronotal and elytral pubescence. Forms similar to the type specimen are found at scattered localities in central California. In the same area and at other localities throughout the range of *D. tristis* specimens are found with the pronotal spots of white pubescence reduced to a very few white hairs. It is the opinion of the authors that the two names are synonyms and that the forms with all black pubescence represent a poorly defined geographical race of *D. tristis*. Thus we hereby make the following nomenclatorial proposal: *Dermestes tristis* Fall, 1897 (= *Dermestes medialis* Casey, 1900). — R. S. BEAL, JR., Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff 86001 and T. N. SEENO, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Sacramento 95814.